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London's Flames 5

Set in a TRUE LIGHT:

Being a True and Faithful

ACCOUNT

Of the several

INFORMATIONS

EXHIBITED

To the Honourable COMMITTEE

Appointed by the

PARLIAMENT

To Inquire into the late Dreadful Burning

OF THE

City of **LONDON:**

TOGETHER

With other Informations touching the Infidelity of ~~Popish~~ ~~Priests~~ and ~~Jesuits~~; and the Increase of ~~Popery~~.

To which is prefix'd

An INTRODUCTION: Shewing the Occasion of Re-printing these INFORMATIONS at this time.

London: Printed by J. How, at the Seven Stars in Talbot-Court in Grace-Church-Street; and Sold by T. Harrison, at the South-West Corner of the Royal-Exchange in Cornhill, 1712. Price 4d.

THE INTRODUCTION.



THE Press and the Pulpit having made it their Business of late to cast an Odium on Her Majesty's Protestant Subjects, the Dissenters, by false accusations, wherein they are taxed with being the Incendiaries that burnt the City of London, in the Year 1666, I could not but think it necessary to undeceive the World by the following Account of the several Informations exhibited to the Committee appointed by the Parliament to inquire into that dreadful Conflagration: Not that I can give into the Opinion, that any Man of Sense can be seduced into a Belief but that the Persons mentioned in the Gazette of April, 1666, that is now Re-printed, were in a Conspiracy for that purpose, which was afterwards accomplish'd, tho' they might not be Dissenters, because that Paper convicts them in April, when the Fact was not committed till the Month of Sept: following: The Paragraph in the Gazette, Number 48, April the 30th, 1666, runs thus:

At the Sessions-House in the Old-Baily, John Rathbone, an Old Army Colonel; Will. Saunders, Henry Tucker, Tho. Flint, Tho. Evans, John Miles, Will. Wescot, and John Cole, formerly Officers of Soldiers in the late Rebellion, were Indicted for conspiring the Death of his Majesty, and the Overthrow of the Government; having laid their Plot and Contrivance for the Surprizal of the Tower, the Killing of his Grace the Lord General, Sir John Robinson, Lieut. of his Majesty's Tower of London, and Sir Richard Brown, and then to have declared for an equal Division of Lands.

To effect this hellish Design, the City was to have been Fired, and the Portcullis to have been let down, to keep out all Assistance; the Horse-Guards to have been surprized in the Inns where they were Quarter'd, several Hostlers having been gained for that purpose. The



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The Tower was accordingly view'd, and its surprize order'd by Boats over the Moat, and from thence to Scale the Wall.

One *Alexander*, who is not yet taken, had likewise distributed Sums of Money to these Conspirators; and for the carrying on the Design more effectually, they were told of a Council of the Great Ones, that sat frequently in *London*, from whence issued all Orders; which Council receiv'd their Directions from another in *Holland*, who sat with the States; and that the 3d of *September* was pitched on for the Attempt, as being found by *Lilly's Almanack*, and a Scheme erected for that purpose, to be a lucky Day, a Planet then ruling which prognosticated the Downfal of Monarchy.

The Evidence against these Persons was very Full and Clear, and they were accordingly found guilty of High-Treason.

But since the Majority of the People are apt to be led aside, and drawn into too credulous a Conceit for false Appearances, and every one is for lending a helping Hand to compleat the Destruction of what they call the Ruin'd-Party, 'tis presum'd the following Narrative will be of use to such as will give themselves time to Read it. The Facts contain'd in it, are so well, and fully Attested, as to remove all grounds for Calumnies of so flagrant a Nature as those are, which are charg'd upon such as have the unhappiness to Dissent from the Establish'd Church, and to make it appear, that howsoever fond we are lately grown of the Papists, by endeavouring to impute their detestable Practices to a Religion that has an Abhorrence of them, that they only were the Persons that Fired the City, and laid in Ashes this renowned Metropolis. With what Colour of Justice, therefore, can the establish'd Clergy vent their malicious Reflections upon a Protestant People, whose Principles and Practices have always shewn the greatest Aversion to Acts of Cruelty? With what appearance of Truth can it be given out, that they set Fire to their own Houses, when the very Inscription on the Monument that was erased in the Reign of the late King James, is so convincing a Testimonial in their Behalf? It is set forth there, that, This Pillar was set up for the perpetual Remembrance of the most dreadful Burning of this Protestant City, began and carry'd on by the Papists, on the Beginning of *Sept. 1666*, in Order to the carrying on their horrid Plot, for extirpating the Protestant Religion, and the Old English Liberty, and introducing Popery and Slavery: Why should any one then insult his Protestant Brethren with the Imputation of a Crime

The INTRODUCTION.

that was wholly perpetrated by Men whose Religion teaches them to be Conversant with Desolation and Slaughter, and to compass Sea and Land to make Profelites to their damnable Perswasion? Surely none that have at Heart the Succession in the Protestant Line, or that remember the Escape we have made by the Means of the late happy Revolution, in which these very Dissenters, whom we now load with Infamy, join'd with us, can be induced to believe what is so industriously spread about, to the amusement of the Populace, and the abuse of their Understandings: Besides, it is highly probable from the Tories own Account of the Sectaries Oliver's Army was compos'd of, and in which Peter de Moulin, a Gentleman altogether in the Interest of that Party, affirms many Monks to have been found dead at the Battle of Edge-Hill, the very Persons specified in the Gazette above-mention'd, might be Papists. Because the Presbyterians, both in England and Scotland, were such profess'd Sticklers for the Monarchy, as not only to contribute Money towards the Royalist's Support, but to thunder out their Anathemas from the Pulpit against all such as were averse to an Accommodation with their injur'd Sovereign, which is of Force sufficient to clear any of that Religion from the Aspersions cast upon them in the Paper that gives Rise to this Pamphlet.

But it avails little to dwell upon Harrangues, or insist longer upon Declamatory Exposculations. The following Depositions will set the Reader right, as to the Knowledge of the real Authors of this Villainous and Barbarous Attempt, and he has no more to do than to give them a diligent Perusal, and be as fully satisfied as I am, that the Clamours against the Dissenters on this Head, have no grounds for them, but are only the Effects of Malice, and set on Foot to bring about Designs which the Party, that are industrious in charging others with Sedition, dare not own.

London's

L O N D O N's Flames

Set in a TRUE LIGHT, &c.



PCN the 2d of *Sept.* 1666, the Fire began in *London*, at one *Farryner's* House, a Baker, in *Pudding-Lane*, between the Hours of One and Two in the Morning, and continued burning until the 6th of *Sept.* following; consuming, as by the Surveyors appears in Print, Three Hundred seventy Three Acres within the Walls of the City of *London*, and Sixty Three

Acres Three Roods without the Walls. There remains Seventy Five Acres three Roods yet standing within the Walls unburnt. Eighty Nine Parish-Churches, besides Chappels, burnt. Eleven Parishes within the Walls yet standing. Houses burnt, thirteen Thousand Two Hundred.

Per { *Jonas Moore,* } Surveyors.
 { *Ralph Gatrix,* }

Upon the 18th of *Sept.* 1666, the Parliament came together: And upon the 25th of the same Month, the House of Commons appointed a Committee to enquire into the Causes of the late Fire, before whom the following Informations were given in, and proved before the Committee; as by their Report will more clearly appear, bearing Date the 22d of *January* 66. And upon the 8th of *Feb.* following, the Parliament was Prorogued, before they came to give their Judgment thereupon.

Die Martis 25 *Septembris* 1666, 18 *Car.* 2.

Resolved, &c.

That a Committee be appointed to inquire into the Causes of the late Fire, and that it be referred to.

Sir

Sir Charles Harbord,	Mr. Robert Millward,	Sir Robert Atkins,
Mr. Sandys,	Sir William Lowther,	Sir Thomas Gower,
Col. Birch,	Sir Richard Watley,	Mr. Trevor,
Sir Robert Brook,	Sir Rowland Beckley,	Sir Thomas Clifford,
Sir Thomas Littleton,	Sir Thomas Allen,	Sir Hen. Cesar,
Mr. Pryn,	Mr. Whorwood,	Sir John Monson,
Mr. Jones,	Mr. Coventry,	Sir Job. Charlton,
Sir Solomon Swale,	Serj. Maynard,	Lord Ancram,
Sir Thomas Tomlins,	Sir Jo. Talbot,	Mr. Pepis,
Mr. Seymour,	Mr. Morley,	Sir Richard Everard,
Mr. Finch,	Mr. Garraway,	Mr. Crouch,
Lord Herbert,	Sir Fran. Goodnick,	Mr. Merrel,
Sir John Heath,	Col. Strangways,	Sir William Hickman,
Mr. Millward,	Sir Edward Massey,	Sir Richard Brown,
Sir Richard Ford,	Sir Edm. Walpool,	Mr. Maynard.

And they are to meet to Morrow at Two of the Clock in the Afternoon, in the Speaker's Chamber; and to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Will. Goldesbrough, Cler. Dom. Com.

October the 9th 1666.

Ordered, That these Members following be added to the Committee appointed to inquire into the Causes of the late Fire, viz. Sir John Pelham, Mr. Hugh, Buscoven, Mr. Giles Hungerford, Sir William Lewis, Sir Gilbert Gerrard, Sir John Brampton, Mr. Milward, Mr. Buscoven, and all the Members that serve for the City of London.

Wil. Goldesbrough, Cler. Dom. Com.

October the 16th 1666.

Ordered, That Mr. Davis, Sir Tho. Higgons, Mr. St. John, Sir Rich. Franklin, Sir Tho. Tomkins, Mr. Devereux, Mr. Millard, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Dowdeswell, Sir James Thyn, Sir Edm. Pierse, Mr. Coleman, Sir Tho. Allen, Mr. Giles Hungerford, Mr. Churchil, be added to the Committee appointed to inquire into the Causes of the late Fire.

Will. Goldesbrough, Cler. Dom. Com.

THE Honourable Committee, according to the fore-mentioned Orders of the House, did meet in the Speaker's Chamber, and having chosen Sir Robert Brook for their Chairman, proceeded to receive many considerable Informations from divers credible Persons, about the Matter wherewith they were intrusted,

intrusted, and thereupon did at last agree, that Sir Robert Broak should make the ensuing Report to the Honourable House of Commons.

The Report of Sir Robert Brook, Chairman to the Committee that was appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the Firing of the City of London; made the 22d of Jan. 1666.

IN a Letter from *Alanson*, of the 23d of *August*, 1666, New *Stile*, written from one *Dural* to a Gentleman Lodging in the House of one of the Ministers of the *French Church* in *London*, called *Monfieur Herault*, there were these Expressions:

' Pray acquaint me with the Truth of certain News which is common in this Country, That a Fire from Heaven is fallen upon a Ciry called *Belke*, situated on the Side of the River of *Thames*, where a world of People have been Killed and Burnt, and Houses also consumed: Which seemed a Word of *Cabal*, cast out by some that were Knowing, and others that might be Ignorant of the Signification of it.

Mrs. Elizabeth Styles informs, That in *April* last, in an eager Discourse she had with a *French* Servant of *Sir Vere Fan*, he hastily replied, *You English Maids will like the French Men better, when there is not a House left between Temple-Bar and London-Bridge.* To which she answer'd, *I hope your Eyes will never see that:* He reply'd, *This will come to pass between June and October.*

William Tisdale informs, That he being, about the Beginning of *July*, at the *Greyhound* in *St. Martins*, with one *Fitz-Harris*, an *Irish* Papist, heard him say, *There would be a sad Desolation in September, in November a worse, in December all would be united into one.* Whereupon he asked him, Where this Disolation would be? He answer'd, *In London.*

Mr. Light of Ratcliff, having some Discourse with *Mr. Langborne*, of the *Middle-Temple*, Barrister, (reputed a zealous Papist) about *February* 65 last, after some Disputation about Religion, he took him by the Hand, and said to him, *You expect great things in 66, and think that Rome will be destroyed, but what if it be London?*

Mr. Kitley of Barkin in *Essex*, informs, That one *Mrs. Yazly*, a Papist, of *Ilford* in the said County, came unto his House, *August* the 13th, and being in Discourse with his Mother, said, *They say the next Thursday will be the hottest Day that ever*

was in England. She reply'd, *I hope the hottest Season in the Year is now past*: To which she answer'd, *I know not whether it be the hottest for Weather or for Action*. This Mrs. Yazly coming to the same House the Week after the Fire, Mr. Kitley said to her with some Trouble, *I have often thought of your hot Thursday*: To which she replied, *It was not indeed upon the Thursday, but it happened upon the Sunday was sennight after*. Mrs. Yazly hearing this Evidence produc'd against her, endeavour'd to avoid the Words, saying, *That upon the 13th of August she did tell Mrs. Kitley, That they say the next Thursday will be the darkest Thursday that ever was in England, but not otherwise*; which she affirms to have received from one Finchman, an Old Woman of Ilford, who being examined by a Justice of Peace, to discover the Truth thereof, denied that she ever said any such Words to Mrs. Yazly, or that she had discouss'd with her about any such matter. And as to the subsequent Words, she saith, Mrs. Yazly denies ever to have spoken them; But Mr. Kitley offered in her Presence (if it should be demanded) to bring his Mother and Wife to testify the same.

William Ducker, Esquire, a Member of the House, informs, That one Henry Baker of Chippenham, in the County of Wilts, coming from Market with one John Woodman of Kelloway in the same County, the Thursday before the Fire began in London, they had some Discourse about the Buying of a Yoke of fat Bullocks wherein they differ'd, because Woodman, who was to sell them, was desir'd to keep them a while in his Hands; but the said Woodman denied so to do, for that, as he alledged, he could not stay in the Country till that Time which Baker would have them deliver'd to him in, and being asked whither he was going, he refused to tell, Asking what he had to do to make that Question; but riding a little further, the said Woodman express'd these Words; *You are brave Blades at Chippenham, you made Bonfires lately for Beating the Dutch; but since you delight in Bonfires, you shall have your Bellies full of them ere it be long*: Adding, *That if he lived one Week longer, he should see London as sad a London as ever it was since the World began*: And in some short Time after, he should see as bloody a Time as ever was since England was England. This Discourse was not much taken Notice of at that Time it was spoken, but when the City of London was burnt, the said Henry Baker gave this Information to the said Mr. Ducker, and thereupon he issued out his Warrant to apprehend Woodman, but he was gone out of the Country, and cannot be heard of since. Robert

Robert Hubert of *Roan* in *Normandy*, who acknowledged that he was one of those that fired the House of *Mr. Farryner*, a Baker, in *Pudding-Lane*, from whence the Fire had its Beginning, confessed, That he came out of *France* with one *Stephen Peidloe*, about four Months before the Fire, and went into *Sweden* with him, where he also stay'd with him, as his Companion, four Months, and then they came together into *England* in a *Swedish Ship* called the *Skipper*, where he stay'd on Board with the said *Peidloe* till that *Saturday Night*, in which the Fire brake out. When *Peidloe* taking him out of the Ship, carry'd him into *Pudding-Lane*, and he being earnest to know whither he would carry him, he would not satisfie him till he had brought him to the Place, and then he told him that he had brought three Balls, and gave him one of them to throw into the House; and he would have been further satisfied in the Design, as he said, before he would execute it: But *Peidloe* was so impatient that he would not hear him, and then he did the Fact, which was, That he put a Fire-ball at the End of a long Pole, and Lighting it with a Piece of Match, he put it in at a Window, and stay'd till he saw the House in a Flame. He confessed that there were 23 Complices, whereof *Peidloe* was the Chief.

Mr. Graves, a *French Merchant*, Living in *St. Mary Axe*, informed this Committee, that he had known *Hubert* ever since he was four Years old, and hath ever observed him to be a Person of a mischievous Inclination, and therefore sit for any villainous Enterprize: And because of his Knowledge he had of him, he went to visit him in Prison, where, when he saw him, he could not but commiserate the Condition whereinto he had brought himself. And for his better Discovery of the Fact, he told the said *Hubert*, That he did not believe he had done that of which he confessed himself Guilty; to which *Hubert* reply'd, *Yes, Sir, I am Guilty of it, and have been brought to it by the Instigation of Monsieur Peidloe; but not out of any Malice to the English Nation, but from a Desire of Reward, which he promised me upon my Return into France.*

It is observable, That this miserable Creature who confessed himself to the Committee to be a *Protestant*, was a *Papist*, and dy'd so. And as for the aforesaid *Peidloe*, the said *Mr. Graves* inform'd, that he had had a full Knowledge of him, and knew him to be a very debaish Person, and apt to any wicked Design. Moreover for a clear Conviction of the Guilt of the aforesaid

Hubert,

Hubert, Mr. *Lowman*, the Keeper of the *White Lyon Prison*, was appointed to set him upon a Horse, and to go with him, and to see if he could find out the Place where he threw the Fire Ball. Upon which *Hubert*, with more Readiness than those that were well acquainted with the Place, went to *Pudding-Lane*, unto the very Place where the House that was Fired, stood, saying, *Here stood the House*. The Jaylor endeavour'd to draw him from that Belief, and put him upon seeking for some other Place, but he positively persisted in what he had first said, and affirmed that to have been the said House. It being intimated to the Committee, That notwithstanding the Confession of the said *Hubert*, it was confidently reported, that the Fire in the foremention'd *Farryner's* House began by Accident. The Committee therefore sent for him, the said *Farryner* before them, who being examined, said, That it was impossible any Fire should happen in his House by Accident; for he had after Twelve of the Clock that Night, gone through every Room thereof, and found no Fire, but in one Chimney, where the Room was paved with Bricks, which Fire he diligently raked up in Embers. He was then asked whether no Window or Door might let in Wind to disturb those Coals; he affirmed there was no possibility for any Wind to disturb them: And that it was absolutely set on Fire of Purpose.

Dawes Weymansel, Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, informed, That he saw a Man apprehended in the Time of the Fire near the Temple, with his Pockets stuff with combustible Matter, made of Flax, Tow, and such like Materials.

Dr. *John Packer* informs, That he saw a Person, in the time of the Fire, throw some combustible matter into a Shop in the *Old Baily*, which he thinks was the Shop of an Apothecary; and that immediately thereupon he saw a great Smoak, and smelt a Smell of *Brimstone*. The Person that did this, immediately ran away; but, upon the Out-cry of the People, he was taken by the Guards.

Mr. *Randal*, Mr. *Haslem*, and Mr. *Humphry Bowyer*, do all agree, That they saw a Person Flinging something into a House near *St. Antholin's Church*, and that thereupon the House was on Fire, and the Smoak thereof infested the adjacent Houses. And when this was done, there was No Fire near the Place.

Mr. *Michael March*, an Officer in the Trained Bands in a Company of *Sir Richard Brown's*, apprehended a *Walloon* in the Time of the Fire at the *Nag's-Head* in *Leaden-Hall-Street*, with an Instrument like a dark Lanthorn, made (as is conceiv-

ved

ved) to lay a Train of Powder, and it was filled with Gun-Powder. There were two more of the same Nation in his Company. They being asked to what Use they employ'd the same Instrument, would give no Account thereof.

Newton Killingworth, Esq; informed, That he apprehended a Person during the Fire, about whom he found much combustible matter, and certain black Things of a long Figure, which he could not endure to hold in his Hands, by Reason of their extream Heat. This Person was so surprized at first, that he would not answer to any Question; but being on his Way to *White-hall*, he acted the Part of a Mad-man, and so continued while he was with him.

Sir John Maynard, a Member of this House, affirms, That he had some of that combustible matter in his Hands; and though it were in its natural Substance, and unfired, yet the Heat of it was scarcely to be endured by the Touch.

Mr. Freeman of *Southwark*, Brewer, (whose House was lately fired) informs, That on the Day his House was fired, (about a quarter of an Hour before that happen'd) a Paper with a Ball of Wildfire, containing near a Pound Weight wrapped in it, was found in the *Nave of a Wheel*, in a Wheeler's Yard, where lay a great Quantity of Timber. How his House was fired, he knoweth not; but this he affirmed to the Committee, That it could not be by Accident, because there had not been any Candle or Fire in the House where the Hay lay, that whole Day; and that the Hay being laid in very dry, and before *Midsummer*, could not possibly be set on Fire within itself. Moreover he said, That the Hay-Loft was on Fire on the Top of the House, and that the Fire spread from one End of the Roof to another in an Instant.

Mr. Richard Harwood informs, That being near the *Feathers Tavern* by *St. Paul's*, upon the fourth of *September*, he saw something through a Grate in a Cellar like Wildfire, by the Sparkling and Spitting of it he could judge it to be no other; whereupon he gave Notice of it to some Soldiers that were near the Place, who caused it to be quenched.

I had Order from the Committee to acquaint you, That we traced several Persons apprehended upon strong Suspicion, (during the Fire) to the Guards, but could not make further Discovery of them.

Thus far was the Report : What follows was given in to the Committee, but not by them Reported to the House at that Time.

IN Obedience to an Order directed to me, from the Honourable Committee of the House of Commons, then Sitting in the Speaker's Chamber, of the second of October, 1666, I did carry Robert Hubert to St. Katharines Tower by Water, to let me know the Place where the Swedish Ship lay, that brought him and other Frenchmen from Stockholm, and he brought me to the Dock over-against Mr. Corfellis's Brew-House, and did then verify to me and Mr. Corfellis, That the Ship lay there until such Time as he, with Mr. Peidloe and others, did go and set Fire to a House. And this Hubert did then further say, That Mr. Peidloe did fix two Fire-Balls to a long Pole, and put them into a Window; and that he the said Robert Hubert did fire one in the same manner, and put it in at the same Window. But with all the Enquiry and Diligence that I could use, I could neither find nor hear of any such Vessel. And from thence I carry'd the said Robert Hubert to Tower-Hill, and did then desire him to shew me the House that they did fire, and he said, That it was near the Bridge. So we went along Thames-Street towards the Bridge; but before we came to the Bridge, the said Robert Hubert said, That the House was up there, (Pointing with his Hand up Pudding-Lane): So I bid him go to the Place, and he went along upon the Bricks and Rubbish, and made a stand: Then I did ask one Robert Penny, a Wine-Porter, which was the Baker's House, and he told me, That was the House where the aforesaid Robert Hubert stood. So I went to Robert Hubert, and stood by him, and turned my Back towards the Baker's House, and demanded of him which House it was that he fired, (directing to other Houses contrary to that House) but he turning himself about, said, This was the House, (Pointing to the Baker's House that was first fired). Then, by Reason of his Lameness I set him on a Horse, and carry'd him to several other Places, but no other Place he would acknowledge, but rode back again to the Baker's House, and said again, That that was the House, Pointing at the Baker's House. And this I do humbly certify to this Honourable Committee.

By me John Lowman, Keeper of his Majesty's
County-Goal for Surrey.

S I R,

S I R,

Hearing that you are Chairman to the Committee for Examining the Firing of London, I thought good to acquaint you with this Information that I have received.

William Champneys, a Hatband-maker, now Living upon Horshy-Down, was upon Tuesday Morning, September the 4th, 1666, in Shoe-Lane, and there met with a Constable who had apprehended a Frenchman whom he took Firing a House there with Fire-Balls, and charged the said Champneys to assist him, who carried the said Frenchman to Salisbury Court, hoping there to have found a Justice; but finding that Place Burning down, returned into Fleet-street, who was presently called upon by the Commander of the Life-Guard, to know what the matter was: The Constable told him, He had apprehended a Frenchman Firing a House in Shoe-Lane; he examined the Person and committed him to the Guard, and told the Constable he would secure him, and carried him along with him. The Constable asked him whether he should go along with him to give in his Evidence: He replied, That he had done enough, and might go Home. But what became of the Frenchman, he knoweth not.

Your humble Servant, S. G:

In a Letter directed from Ipswich, for the Honourable Sir Robert Brook, it is intimated, That about the 30th of August, 1666, One of the Constables of Cottou in Hartsmer Hundred, being about the Survey of that Town, about Hearth-Money, was told by one Mr. William Thompson, a Roman Catholick in that Town, That though Times were like to be sad, yet if he found any Cause to Change his Religion, he would see he should not want; and further said to him, What will you say if you should hear that London is burnt.

The Affidavits touching a Frenchman that said, There were Three Hundred of them engaged in Firing the City.

The Informations of Richard Bound of St. Giles in the Fields, Iron-monger, William Cotes, Samuel Page, Francis Cogny, Edmund Dakins, and Richard Pardoe, taken the eighth Day of September, 1666, by Sir Justinian Lewen, Knight, one of his Majesty's Justice of the Peace for the County of Middlesex, upon Oath, as followeth:

Richard Bound saith, That upon Tuesday Night last, about Twelve or One of the Clock, there was a Frenchman brought

brought by the Watch to this Informant's Father's House, being at the Sign of the *White-Hart* in *King-street*, taken as a suspicious Person; the said Person being questioned by them, whether he was not one of those that Fired the City, or had any Hand therein, or any Privy or Knowledge of any that had designed the same, or Words to that Effect, the said Person answered a great while in a perverse Manner, quite different from the Question. But being further pressed to tell the Truth, and being told, That if he were guilty, it would be the only Way to save his Life. He did at first obstinately deny that he knew any Thing of any Plot; whereupon a Young-man took the Prisoner aside, to the End of the Room, and after some private Discourse between them, they both returned to this Informant and the rest of the Company, and the said Young Man spake openly to us, in the Hearing of the Prisoner, That the said *French-man* and Prisoner had Confessed there were *Three Hundred Frenchmen that were in a Plot or Conspiracy to Fire the City*. Upon which this Informant and others, spake to the said *Frenchman* in these Words, or to the same Effect: *Well, Monsieur, you have done very well to confess what you have done, and no doubt but you may have your Pardon, if you will confess all you know of this Plot*: And thereupon further asked him, *Are there no more than Three Hundred Persons in the said Plot?* He answer'd, *There are no more than Three Hundred Persons*. Then we enquired, who they were, and how he came to know they were *Three Hundred*: To which he would give no direct Answer, but put it off with other extravagant Discourse. And being asked why he came to *St. Gyles Parish* (where he was apprehended) he told a Story, that he came from *Islington Fields* where his Master's Goods were; but the Goods were now removed, but he could not tell whither; and that his Master bid him go up and down the Fields, but would not declare upon what Occasion, or for what End he was so to do; and being asked whether there were *Three Hundred Persons* engaged in this Design, or Plot, he replied, *That there were Three Hundred engaged in it*.

The several Informations of William Cotes, of Cow-Lane, of London, Painter, of Samuel Page, of St. Gyles in the Fields, Wenver, of Edmond Dakings, of St. Gyles aforesaid, Bookseller, of Francis Cockney, of St. Andrews Holborn, of Richard Pardoe, Viſtualler, taken upon Oath, &c. tend to the Confirmation of the foregoing Relation. An

*An Extract of a Letter from Heydleburgh, in the Palatinate,
September the 29th, 1666.*

S I R,

Yours of the sixth current came on Wednesday to me, and brought me the ill Tydings of the Burning of London, constantly expected and discoursed of amongst the Jesuits, to my Knowledge, for these Fifteen Years last past, as to Happen this Year. In which they do also promise to themselves and others the Introduction of the publick Exercise of the Catholick Religion. This Letter was sent to Mr. Alton, who lives in New-Gravel-Lane in Shadwell, who Negotiates the Business of the Palatinate, and will produce the Original if there be Occasion.

The Information of John Chishull, Schoolmaster in Enfield.

UPon Friday, August the 21st, Mrs. St. George, and her eldest Daughter *Susanna St. George*, both *Popish Recusants*, came to visit Mrs. *Rebecca Eves*, Widow, at her House in *Enfield*; where speaking concerning the Session of Parliament drawing nigh, Mrs. St. George told her, *That some would hereafter be called to an Account for a Plot.* Being asked for what? She told her in her Ear, *For Burning the City.* Mrs. *Eves* afterwards hearing of the Firing of London, (and going to a Place where she might behold it) met with Mrs. *Susanna St. George*, and (amongst other Discourse) told her how much her Mother's Words, which she spake the Friday before, did run in her Thoughts; which she repeated to her Daughter, who made this Reply, *That her Mother was very apt to talk, and that she had been fain to keep her Mother within Doors during the Fire, fearing lest she should talk.*

After this (during the Fire) Mrs. *Eves* met with Mrs. *Cook*, another *Popish Recusant*, and of the same Family, to whom she also related Mrs. St. George her Words; who made this Return, *That she was a worthy Woman to keep Counsel!*

Also the Lady St. George at *Enfield*, in the Lord of *Lincoln's* House, declared to Mrs. *Rebecca Eves* of the said Town, *That within a few Days the City of London should be laid in Ashes.* This was spoken about two Days before the Fire happen'd.

Mrs,

Mrs. Eves of Enfield, her Examination before Mr. Jolliff and Mr. Marvel, Decemb. the 20th, 1666, concerning Mrs. St. George.

Mrs. Rebecca Eves of Enfield, three or four Days, or within a Week before the Fire, receiving a Visit in her own Houle from Mrs. St. George (amongst other Discourses) Mrs. St. George ask'd her what News she heard, and ask'd her if she knew when the Parliament sat? Mrs. Eves replied, *She thought shortly.* The other asked, if she heard of any that were to be called in Question before the Parliament; Mrs. Eves said, *About what?* Mrs. St. George said, *About a Plot.* Mrs. Eves asked, *What Plot?* Mrs. St. George answer'd, *About Firing the City.* Mrs. Eves said, *I hope God will preserve the City, but People use not to be questioned before the Fact be committed.* So the Discourse was waved for that Time.

At the Time of the Fire, Mrs. Eves went out to look towards the Fire, and mentioning Mrs. St. George, one in the Company replied behind her, (but she cannot certainly fix the Person) *A prime Woman to keep Counsel!* After the Fire, Mrs. St. George's Daughter came to Mrs. Eves, who asked her if she remember'd what her Mother had said? She said, *My Mother is such a Woman she will speak what she thinks,* Afterwards she said, *That she had much ado to keep her Mother in, at the Time of the Fire, lest she should speak some Things that she should be question'd for.*

At the first Discourse, Mrs. Eves's Daughter, and others of her Family were present. Mr. St. George, his Wife and Family, have since left Enfield. They are all great Papists, and there are many more in the Neighbourhood.

A Letter directed and sent by the Post to Mr. Samuel Thurlton, in Leicestershire, from a Person unknown, as followeth, Dated October, 1666:

My Friend,

Your Presence is now more necessary at London, than where you are, that you may determine how to dispose of your Estate in Southwark; for it is determined by Humane Council (if not frustrated by Divine Power) that the Suburbs will shortly

shortly be destroyed. *Your Capacity is large enough to understand, Proceed as your Genius shall instruct you.*

Cave, Cave, Fuge, Vale.

Saturday the first of September, 1666, the Day before the Fire in London, came one *Urmstraw* from *Ireland* with a Letter from thence, to one *Esq; Holcroft* at *East-Ham* in *Essex*, (being related to that Family by Marriage) where he supped. After which he asked the Esquire, if he had heard any Thing of the Firing of London? Who answer'd, No; but *Urmstraw* said, *He would shortly, for it was or would be so that Night.* The Esq; answer'd, *If it were, he hoped it might be quenched again, as it had been many a Time:* But *Urmstraw* answer'd, *No, it would not be quenched; for it should be said of it as of Troy, repeating a Latine Verse, Nunc Seges est ugi Troja fuit, That, Now Corn grows where Troy stood.* This Discourse was managed pleasantly by him, after which they went to their Beds. And in the Morning this *Urmstraw* enquires earnestly, *Whether they had heard of the Firing of London that Night;* they answer'd, *No.* But he prayed them to send one of the Family out to enquire, and doubtless they would hear of it: Upon which a Messenger was sent, who brought in Word from a Man that travelled upon the Road, that it was on Fire indeed. After Dinner this *Urmstraw* desires his Horse to be saddled, that he might be gone. The Esquire intreats him to stay till next Morning, but he answer'd, *If I should stay, I shall sleep no more this Night than I did the last, therefore I would go see London before it is quite Burned, for I shall never see it more.*

Sunday Morning the Fire being begun in London, a Person coming from *Deptford*, when he came to *Barnaby-street* End in *Southwark*, hears a Woman cry out against a *Frenchman* for Throwing Fireballs, he runs after him, and lays hold of him. He asked him *what Commission he had for so doing?* He answer'd, *That his Commission was in his Chest:* The People coming in, they search'd him, and found Fireballs in his Pockets. He was deliver'd to the Guard in *Southwark*, but heard of no more.

A Citizen being Fired out of his House, had hired a Lodging in *Queens-street*, in *Covent-Garden*; and going up *Holborn* (there being a Crowd of People) steps in amongst them, and hears a Woman say that she had a Hand in Firing the City. The People ask'd her, *Whether she were an Anabaptist?* She said, *No:* *Are you an Independent?* She said, *No:* *Are you a*

Presbyterian? She said, *No: Are you a Roman Catholick?* To which she would give no Answer: The Citizen asked her, *But, Mrs. have you had a Hand in Burning the City?* She answer'd, *What will you have me to say? I have confessed it already, and do deserve to Dye for it.* This she said with great Trembling, and seemed to be much troubled. The Citizen enquires for a Constable, the People reply, *There was one gone for,* but a Gallant comes, and takes her by the Arm, and leads her away, saying, *He would have her examined,* and forthwith another Gallant closeth with him, and they both carry'd her to the *Griffin Tavern in Holborn.* The Citizen follows them to see the Result of the Business, but they, with the Master of the House, shut out the Company (all but the Citizen, supposing him to be one of their own Company) but asking one the other concerning him, and finding him not of them, put him out again. Whereupon he goes to the next Company of Soldiers, and enquires for their Captain, who replied, *He was not there,* but told him, *Yonder is my Lord Craven,* unto whom the Citizen repaired, and acquainted his Lordship, That there was a Woman apprehended, and rescued by a couple of Gallants) that had confessed she had a Hand in Burning of the City, and was at such a Tavern. Whereupon the Lord Craven called to a Captain in the Street, and order'd him to go with that Man and apprehend the Woman that he should direct him to; whereupon he goes with the Citizen, and takes her with the first Gallant, who stood up highly in her Defence, and carries them both to an Alehouse on the other Side of the Way. The Citizen perceiving that nothing would be done with her, leaves his Name with the Captain, and where he might be found, but was never called for, to Justifie the Words spoken by her.

A Woman standing in *White Chappel* with a Company about her, was ask'd what the Matter was. She said, That she met two Young Men in that Place, and asked them how it was with the Fire: They answer'd, *It's now almost out, if it can be kept so, but the Rogues renew it with their Fire-balls.* Ay, saith another Woman, *Young-men, if you have a Heart to it, you may be hired to throw Fire-balls too; for I know where Twenty were hired Yesterday to throw them.* It was ask'd her, What was become of the Woman that spake thus? She answer'd, That she had apprehended her, and deliver'd her to the under-Beadle of *White Chappel* Parish. The Woman falling under the Accusation (not being able to deny it) there being many Witnesses at that Time that heard it, she was deliver'd to Sir *John Robinson*, but heard of no more.

One from *France* writes to his Correspondent in *London*, to know the Truth of what was muttered in *Paris*, Whether *London* were laid in Ashes or no. The Letter being dated a Week before the Fire began.

From *Surrey* in or near *Darkin*, a Person in ordinary Habit (who was yet observed to take Place of all the Nobility and Gentry among the *Papists*) seeing the People of *Darkin* mourn for the Burning of the City, he spake slightly of it, telling them, *They should have something else to trouble themselves for, and that shortly Darkin should be laid as low as London*. Whereupon the People made at him, and one Mr. *Howard*, a great *Papist*, rescues him, and sends him away in his Coach to *London*. This was depofed before Sir *Adam Brown*, a Justice of the Peace, and a Member of Parliament.

These following Relations (for Substance) were delivered to Sir *Robert Brooks*, Chairman of the Committee, a little before the Prorogation of the Parliament.

A True Relation made by one of the Grand Jury, at Hicks's-Hall, at a general Quarter-Sessions, presently after the Fire in London, who was upon the Tryal of some of those that Fired the City.

That near *West-Smithfield* in *Cheek-Lane*, there was a Man taken in the very Act of Firing a House, by the Inhabitants and Neighbours; and carrying him away through *Smithfield*, to have him before a Justice for the Fact committed: The King's Life-Guard perceiving of it, made up unto them, and demanded their Prisoner from them, but they refused to let him go. The Life-Guard Men told them, That he was one of the King's Servants; and said, *We will have him*; and thereupon they drew out their Swords and Pistols, and rescued him out of the People's Hands by Force of Arms.

A Bill of Indictment was brought against him, and two or three Witnesses did swear unto it; and the Bill was found by the Grand Jury, who did carry it to the *Old Bayley*, and presented it to the Lord Chief Justice; but it came to no further Tryal, nor was ever seen after at the *Old Bayley*, so far as this Person upon his best Enquiry could ever hear or learn.

Concerning a House-Keeper at So-ho, who fired his Dwelling-House.

First he secured all his Goods in his Garden, and then went in and fired his House, which when he had done, he endeavoured to get away out at his Fore-Door. A Neighbour demanded of him who had fired his House? He answer'd, *the Devil*. Upon that his Neighbour bid him stand, or he would run his Halbert into his Guts: His Answer was, *If you do, there are enough left behind me to do the Work*. Whereupon he was secured, and a Bill of Indictment brought against him, and about three Witnesses did swear to it, and his Son came in as a Witness against him. He was demanded by the Foreman, What he could say as to the Firing his Father's House? He said that his Father did fire it with a Fire-Ball. It was demanded of him, Whether he did fire it above Stairs, or below? He answer'd, *Above Stairs*. The Bill was likewise found; but the petty Jury being too much influenced and over-awed by the L. C. J. K. did not find him guilty.

A Maid was taken in the Street with two Fire-Balls in her Lap; some did demand of her, where she had them? She said, One of the King's Life-Guard threw them into her Lap: She was asked why she had not caused him to be apprehended? She said, That she knew not what they were. She was indicted for this, and the Bill found against her, and turned over to the *Old Bayley*, but no Prosecution upon it.

In the Time of the Fire, a Constable took a *Frenchman* Firing a House, seized on him, and going to a Magistrate with him, met his Royal Highness the Duke of York, who asked the Reason of the Tumult: One told him that a *Frenchman* was taken Firing a House; his Highness called for the Man, who spake to him in *French*: The Duke asked, Who would attest it? The Constable said, *I took him in the Act, and I will attest it*. The Duke took him into his Custody, and said, *I will secure him*. But he was heard of no more.

On Monday, the third of September, there was a *Frenchman* taken Firing a House; and upon Searching of him, Fire-Balls were found about him. At which Time four of the Life-Guard rescued the *Frenchman*, and took him away from the People, after their usual Manner in the whole Time of the Fire.

One Mr. *Belland*, a *Frenchman*, living at *Maribone*, who bought great store of Pastboard for a considerable Time before the Fire in the City of London, to the Quantity of Twenty Gross in

in one Shop, and much more elsewhere, was asked by a Citizen, What he did with all that Pastboard? He answer'd, That he made Fire-Works for the King's Pleasure. The Citizen asked him, *What doth the King give you?* He replied, *Nothing, only I have Respects at Court:* The Citizen said, *Take heed, Mr. Belland, you do not expend your Estate, and then lose your Respects at Court, for you are at a great Charge.* Belland answer'd, *Sir, Do you think this a great Matter? I use all this myself; but if you did see all the great Quantities I have made elsewhere, in three several Places, Three, Four, and Five Miles off, you would say something.* Another Time, the Stationer with whom he dealt for the Pastboard, being at his House in Maribone, and Wondring at the many Thousands of Fire-Works that lay piled up of several Sorts, he said, *Sir, do you wonder at this? If you should see the Quantity that I have made elsewhere by other Men, you would WONDER INDEED.*

The Sunday before the Fire began, this Belland came to the Shop where he was wont to buy his Pastboard, but the Stationer being not there, he desired a Citizen (the Stationer's Neighbour) to speak to him, and to let him know that he had much wronged him in Disappointing him of the four Grofs of Pastboard which he should have had of him, and said that he should not do his Work by the Time; and that if he had it not by Tuesday Night it would come too late, he should have no Occasion for it after that (which was the Tuesday Night before the Fire). Mr. Belland, (said the Citizen) *what is the Reason of your Haste? Have you any Shew suddenly before the King?* At which he blush'd, and would give no Answer. Says the Citizen, *What kind of Fireworks do you make, only such as will crack and run?* Belland answer'd, *I make of all Sorts; some that will burn and make no Crack at all, but will fly up in a pure Body of Flame higher than the Top of Pauls, and waver in the Air.* Says the Citizen, *Mr. Belland, when you make your Shew, shall I see it?* Yes, said Belland, *I promise you,* and gave him his Hand upon it. Which Citizen, in the Time of the Fire, being upon the Thames in a Boat, saw, to his great Amazement, sundry Bodies of Fire Burning above the Fire of the Houses as high again as Pauls, *Wavering in the Air,* directly according to Belland's Description.

And after the Burning of the City, the Stationer and the other Citizen agreed to go to Maribone, to speak with this Belland; and by the Way met with his two Maids and the Boy, and having some Knowledge of them, asked for young Mr. Belland,

Belland, who told them, he was not at Home, neither knew they where he was. But the Citizens observing that they carry'd with them Rabbits and Capons ready-dress'd, concluded, they were going to him, and told them so. Whereat they were surly, and bid them go look for him, for they would not tell them where he was. Upon that, the Citizens resolv'd to follow them, and did, till they came to *White-Hall*. The Servants went up Stairs and down Stairs, on Purpose to have lost them, but could not, for they kept close to them. And at last, one of the Maids went to a Door and knock'd, Crying out, *They were dogg'd by two Men, that they could not be rid of*. With that young Mr. *Belland* opened the Door, saying to one of the Citizens, *Sir your Servant, how do you do?* One of them answer'd, *Both I and many Thousand Families more are the worse for you; for you, under Pretence of making Fire-works for the King, have Destroyed a Famous City, and Ruined a Noble People.* To which *Belland* replies, *I make nothing but Innocent Things, that will do no Harm; for which, I have a Patent from the King.* But the Citizen answered, *If the King gave you a Patent, it was but for your self: Who answered, No.* Said the Citizen, *What made you then to employ so many Men, in so many Places?* No, said *Belland*, *I set no Man to Work, neither know I any Man that makes of them, but my self; though he had often before said otherwise.* While they were thus discourfing, Old *Belland* looks from under the Hanging, Sir, said he, *I hear you charge my Son with Suspicion of Burning the City, I pray you speak lower,* (casting his Eyes about, fearing the Ladies, passing by, might hear,) and said, *My Son doth nothing but what he hath a Patent from the King for, and shall have an Order, to sue any Man, that shall accuse him.* And he said, *My Son is no Prisoner, but lodged here, to prevent him from the Rage of the Common People.* Well, said the Citizens, *you must give an Account for what you have done.* And so they shut the Door upon them. The Citizens went and enquir'd whose Lodgings they were, and were told, they belonged to the Lady *Killegrewe*.

The Information of *Thomas Middleton*, Chyrurgeon, late Inhabitant of *St. Brides, London*.

I The said *Thomas Middleton* do hereby certifie, that upon the Sunday in the Afternoon (the Day wherein the dreadful Fire brake out in *Pudding-Lane*, which consumed the City) hearing the general Outcry, that the City was fired by Papists and French,

I repaired to the Top of a Church Steeple near the Three Cranes in the Vintrey, where my self and several others observed the Motion of the Fire for two or three Hours together, and we all took Notice, that the Fire did break forth out of several Houses, when the Houses which were then Burning were at a good Distance from them every Way, and more particularly I saw the Fire break out from the Inside of St. Lawrence Pountney's Steeple when there was no Fire near it. These and such like Observations begat in me a Perswasion, that the Fire was maintained by Design. Upon Monday I repaired again into the City, and found, as the Day before, that the Fire did break forth in fresh Houses at a great Distance one from another. And as I was returning Home, passing through Watling-street, by a Tobacco Merchant's House, I saw the Master of the House come down Stairs, driving a young Fellow before him, saying to him, You Rogue, do you come to Rob me, what did you do in my Garret? Or Words to that Purpose; and pushed him out of Doors: All which I observed, and he seemed to be a Frenchman; he was a short black Fellow of about 22 Years of Age: And as soon as he was out of the House, he having a loose Coat on, in a Way of Privacy shuffles something under his Coat, whereupon I laid hold of him, and said, Sirrah, what have you there? The fellow replied, What is that to you, the Master of the House knows me: Upon that I asked the Master of the House, whether he knew the Fellow, he answer'd, he knew him not. Whereupon I searched the Fellow, and found a Horn of Powder about him, and as soon as the Powder was discovered, he fell a Rubbing his Hands, they being all black with Powder: He had also about him, a Book Intituled, The Jewish Government. I charged him that he was a Frenchman, because he spoke broken English; but he denied it, and did much Vaunt himself. There coming a Constable by him with his Staff, I required him to carry him to Prison, and I would assist him; so we conveyed him to Old Bridewell, and by the Way, the People were ready to kill him, calling him French Rascal. I prayed them to forbear, for Justice would give him his Reward. I told the Fellow he would be hanged, but he made slight of it, saying, If I Dye, my Soul shall be Saved, but yours shall be Damned. And when he was put into Bridewell, I desired that he might be secured, and none suffer'd to speak with him, till he were examined before a Magistrate, because the Tobacco-Merchant's House was presently Burned upon it. But so it happened on the next Day, that the Fire came on, and consumed my House and Goods, so that I was forced with my Family to fly into the Country, and
what

what became of the Fellow I know not, Old Bridewell being burned also. And understanding that the Parliament hath appointed a Committee to enquire after the Affairs in, and Fomenters of that terrible Fire, I thought good to inform the honourable Committee thereof, That they might send for the Keeper of the said Bridewell, to know what became of that Fellow, that he might receive Justice, according to his Demerit. Thus much I thought my self obliged to do, as in Duty bound to God and my Country. All which I am ready to affirm upon Oath, when I shall be thereunto called,

Tho. Middleton.

IN the Time of the Fire, near Bridewell, There was a Man sadly bemoaning the great Loss he was like to sustain, (the Fire then being within five or six Houses of him) did beseech the People for God's Sake, they having no Goods of their own in Danger, to come in and help him to throw out Trunks, Chests, Beds, &c. out at Window, having procured two Carts or Waggons to carry them away. Whereupon I ran into his House, with several others, broke down his Windows, threw out his Goods, and loaded the Carts, and there being some Interval of Time before the Return of the Carts, and seeing a Room wherein were many Books and loose Papers (which seemed to be a Library) I went in and took down a Book, which proved to be Ovid's Metamorphosis, and while I was looking upon it, there came into the same Room an Old Man of Low Stature with a white Frock, who looked also on the Book as it was in my Hand, I took him in my Mind to be some Groom come out of a Stable, and thought him to be presumptuously foolish, supposing such a mean-like Old Man ignorant of that Language, in which the Book was written, it being Latine; but I spake not to him: In the mean Time there break forth a Fire amongst the Papers which were behind us, there being none in the Room but he and I. Whereupon the rest of the People Coming in, Cryed out, We had set the Room on Fire, and Rushing in upon us, put out the Fire with their Feet; whereupon I took hold of the Old Man by the Buttons under the Throat, and said, How now, Father, it must either be you or I that fired these Papers. There was a small Thing of a black Matter, which looked like a Piece of a Link, Burning, which questionless set Fire on the Papers, but it was immediately trode out. A Tumult of People thronged in; and when I said, How now, Father, and took hold of him, he said Parce mihi Domine: The People which did not understand it, Cryed out, He is a Frenchman,

man, kill him, and with Pulling of him, his Perriwigge fell off; then appeared a bald Scull, and under his Frock he had black Cloathes, I think of Bishops Sattin, whereupon he seemed to be a grave Ecclesiastick Person. I had much ado to save him from the People, but at last brought him before the Duke of York. We found in his Pocket a Bundle of Papers closed up with Wax like a Packet, which was deliver'd to the Duke of York. I know not what was written in them, neither do I know what Country-man he was; but my thoughts he looked something Jesuitical like. This I am certain of, that when I went into the Room there was no Fire in it, and it was fired when there was none but he and I in it, yet I cannot say I saw him do it, though I cannot but suspect he did it, and the rather because there were several Houses untouched betwixt this House, and where the Fire was coming on, when the Papers in the Library were thus on Fire as I have related. What became of this Fellow after we had deliver'd him to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, I have not heard.

John Stewart

Thus far concerning the Report and Informations about the Fire. Now follows a true Account of what was represented to another Committee of Parliament touching the Insolency of Popish Priests and Jesuits, and the Increase of Popery, &c.

At the Committee appointed to certify Informations touching the Insolency of Popish Priests and Jesuits, and the INCREASE of POPERY,

Ordered,

That these several Informations proceeded on, in Pursuance of the said Power of the Committee, be Reported to the House, in reference to the Insolency of Popish Priests and Jesuits, and the Increase of Popery.

AS to the Increase of Popery, Mr. Hancock, Minister of Chilnoth in Wilts, informs, That meeting with one Mr. Thompson, about a Month since, coming from Mass out of Somerset-House Chappel, and Discoursing to him of his Religion, ask'd him if there were many lately turned to it? Thompson answer'd, Thousands. And being demanded, what Encouragement

ment there was to it, Reply'd, There would be a Change suddenly.

Report his Carriage at the Committee.

Mr. Thompson being summoned before the Committee, did behave himself very insolently: They have commanded me to report it.

Being asked, Whether he had not a Shop in *Somerset-House*, where *Popish Books* and *Popish Knacks* were sold? He said, he had; and that his Man sold such Books and Beads, and other Things. And said; There was one Crucifix, no Reliques, but wished he had some good ones. He said that he was a *Roman Catholick*, and thanks God for it. He said he was no Priest, but wished he were in a Capacity to be one. He said he had not taken the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy, nor would do it. He said that he would take any Oath that any Christian Prince should require, but not the Oath of Allegiance, intimating some Mixture in it. He said he had taken the Oath of Allegiance to the King of *Spain*, and was a Subject to the King of *Spain*.

One Mr. Ash a Minister, late of *Capell* in *Surrey*, informed, that being at *Causfield* in *Lancashire* this last Summer, he saw great Resort on *Sundays* to *Causfield House*, the House of a *Papist*; and asking some that were going thither, what the Occasion was of their Resort thither, they told him, That they were going to Mass, and that one Mr. *Robinson*, a Priest, did say Mass.

Mr. Ash did likewise inform, That he thought the Number of those that went to Mass, to that House on *Sundays*, was as great as the *Protestants* that went to the Parish Church.

One Mr. *Welden*, Deputy Ordinary for *Middlesex*, did inform, That in his accustomed Attendance on the Prisoners at *Newgate*, about the Times of Execution, *Romish Priests*, and particularly one Mr. *Harvey*, a *Jesuit*, hath constantly used to resort to the Prison at those Times; and doth perswade the Prisoners to become *Papists*; and that divers had been alter'd in their Religion by them, and turned to *Popery*.

Mr. *Wotton* informeth, That on the 16th of *October*, he went to *Newgate*, and meeting with one Mr. *Howard*, an under-Keeper, at the Door, desired to speak with Mr. *Hubert* the *Frenchman*, who was then condemned. *Howard* told him that he could not speak with him yet, for Mr. *Harvey* the Queen-Mother's

Mother's Confessor was in private with him, and said, this *Harvy* used frequently to come to the Prison after Condemnation, and that where one Prisoner dyed a *Protestant*, many dyed *Papists*. Mr. *Wotton* said, that after some Stay, he saw Mr. *Harvy* come out from Mr. *Hubert*, and then he was admitted to have Speech with him.

Mr. *Cawdry*, Keeper of *Newgate* did inform, That Mr. *Harvy*, the *Jesuite*, did frequent the Prison at *Newgate* about the Times of Execution, upon the Pretence of the Queen's Charity, and did spend much Time with the Prisoners in private, and particularly did so before the last Execution, Night after Night. Mr. *Cawdry* said likewise of the nine that suffer'd, eight dyed *Papists*, whereof some he knew were *Protestants* when they came into the Prison.

It appeared upon several Informations, that Mr. *Harvy*, and other Priests, did not only resort to *Newgate* at Times of Execution, but likewise to the *White Lyon* in *Southwark*, and other Places in the Country, and used their Endeavours to pervert Dying Prisoners.

Thomas Barnet, late a *Papist*, informed, That when he was a *Papist*, and resorted to Gentlemen's Houses in *Barkeshire*, that were *Papists*, there was almost in every Gentleman's House a Priest, and instanced in divers private Gentlemen in that County. Others did inform the like in *Surrey*.

Mr. *Cotman* did inform, That one Mr. *Carpenter*, late a Preacher at *Colledge Hill*, did in Discourse tell *Cotman*, That the Judgment of God upon this Kingdom, by the Plague last Year, and lately by the Fire in London, were come upon this Land and People for their forsaking the true Roman Catholick Religion, and casting off Obedience to the Pope. And that if they would return to the Church of Rome, the Pope would rebuild this City at his own Charge. *Carpenter* said likewise to the said *Cotman*, That if he would come and hear him preach the next Sunday at his House in Queen-street, he would give Twenty Reasons to prove, that the Roman Catholick was the true Religion, and his false; and that our Bible had a Thousand Falsities in it, and that there was no true Scripture but at Rome and their Church.

Carpenter at the Committee confessed, That he had formerly taken Orders from the Church of Rome, to be a Priest, but said he had renounced that Church, and taken Orders in England.

The next Thing is the Information of their Insolency; and I shall begin with their *Scorning* and *Despising* the Bible.

One *Thomas Williams*, an Officer in *Sir William Bowyer's* Regiment, informed, That one *Ashley*, a *Papist*, seeing a Woman Reading in a Bible, asked her why she read in that *Damnable Presbyterian Bible*, and said, a *Play-Book* was as good.

Thomas Barnet, of *Bynfield* in *Barkeſhire*, informed, That being at one *Mr. Young's* House in *Bynfield*, at *Bartholomew-tide* last, *Mr. Young* said to the Brother of this *Thomas*, in his hearing, *That within two Years there should not be a Protestant in England.* *Thomas Barnet* informed further, That being at *Mr. Doncaſter's* House in *Bynfield*, One *Mr. Thural*, Son-in-law to *Mr. Doncaſter*, (and both *Papiſts*) said to this Informer, (who was then likewise a *Papist*) 'The People take me for a poor Fellow, but I ſhall find a Thousand or two Thousand Pounds to raiſe a Party of Horſe to make *Mr. Hatborn's* and *Mr. Bulcock's* fat Guts lye on the Ground, for it is no more to kill an Heretick, than to kill a Graſshopper: And that it was happy for him, that he was a *Catholick*, for by that means he ſhall be one that ſhall be mounted.

Mr. Linwood, a Scrivener in *White Chappel*, informed, That about the 20th of *October* laſt, meeting with one *Mr. Binks*, a *Papist*, and diſcourſing with him, *Binks* told him, That there was amongſt the *Papiſts* as great a Deſign as ever was in *England*; and he thought it would be executed ſpeedily. Being asked how many *Papiſts* there might be about *London*, he answered, about Seven Thousand; and in *England*, a Hundred Thousand were Armed.

Mr. Oakes, a Phyſician dwelling in *Shadwell*, informed, That a little after the Burning of *London*, one *Mr. Carpenter*, a Miniſter, came to his Houſe on *Tower-Wharf*, and ſpoke to him to this Purpoſe: 'I will not ſay that I am a *Papist*; but this I will ſay, that I had rather dye the Death of a *Papist*, and that my Soul ſhould be raiſed with their Reſurrection, than either be *Presbyterian*, *Independent*, or *Anabaptiſt*. And I tell you, The *Papiſts* have hitherto been his Maſteſty's beſt Fortification. For when *Presbyterian*, *Independent*, and *Anabaptiſt* opposed him, Then they ſtood by him and helped him. And he is now reſolved to commit himſelf into their Hands. And take it upon my Word in a ſhort Time, the *Papiſt* will lay you as low as that Houſe; pointing to a Houſe that was demolished; for they are able to raiſe 40000 Men.

'And

And I believe the next Work will be Cutting of Throats. This was sworn by Mr. Oakes before Sir John Fredericke a Member of the House.

Miriam Pilkington being present when the Words were spoken, doth affirm them all, save only those; That the King is resolved to commit himself into the *Papists* Hands. Those she doth not remember.

Henry Young, a Distiller of hot-waters, informed, That about April, 1661, being in the Jesuite's Colledge in *Antwerp*, one Powel, an *English Jesuite*, perswaded him to turn *Roman Catholick*; and said, If he intended to save his Life and Estate, he had best turn so, for within seven Years he should see all *England* of that Religion. Young replied, That the City of *London* would never endure it. Powel answer'd, That within five or six Years they would break the Power and Strength of *London* in Pieces; and that they had been contriving it these 20 Years; and that if Young did live, he should see it done. The said Young did likewise inform, That shortly after his coming into *England*, one Thompson and Coperwel, both *Papists*, did several Times say to him, That within five or six Years at the furthest, the *Roman Catholick* Religion should be all over this Kingdom.

Jasper Goodwin of *Darkin* in the County of *Surrey*, informed, That about a Month since, One Edward Complyn, a *Papist*, said to him, You must all be *Papists* shortly; and that now he was not ashamed to own himself a *Roman Catholick*, and to own his Priests; naming two that lived in *Darkin*, in the Houses of two *Papists*. And likewise said, That in 24 Hours Warning, the *Roman Catholicks* could raise 30000 Men, as well armed as any Men in *Christendom*.

William Warner of *Darkin*, informed, That the said Edward Complyn did tell him, That the *Roman Catholicks* in *England* could in 24 Hours raise 30000 Horse and Arms: And upon saying so, pull'd out his *Crucifix* and *Beads*; and said, He was not ashamed of his Religion.

John Granger of *Darkin*, informed, That about a Year since, being in his House Reading the Bible, one Thomas Collins, a *Papist*, said to him, Are you still a Church-goer? Had you not better turn *Roman Catholick*? If you stay till you are forced, none will abide you. He said further, that there was a Man Beyond-Sea, had prophesied, That in 66 if the King did not settle the *Romish* Religion in *England*, he would be banished out of the Kingdom, and all his Posterity. And Collins further said, That he

he being lately turned a *Roman Catholick*, would not be a *Protestant* again for all the World. He wished *Granger* again, in the hearing of his Wife, which she affirmed to the Committee) to turn to his Religion, for all the said Prophecy would come to pass in 66.

Robert Holloway of *Darkin* aforesaid, informed, that one *Stephen Griffin*, a *Papist*, said to him, That all the Blood which had been shed in the late Civil Wars, was nothing to that which would be shed this Year in *England*. *Holloway* demanding a Reason for these Words, (in regard the Kingdom was in Peace, and no likelihood of Trouble) and said, *Do you Papists mean to Rise and Cut our Throats when we are asleep?* *Griffin* answer'd, *That's no matter ; if you Live you shall See it.*

Ferdinand de Nassido, a *Portugal*, and some few Years since a *Roman Priest*, but turning *Protestant*, informed, That one *Father Taffe*, a *Jesuite*, did the last Year tell him at *Paris*, That if all *England* did not Return to the Church of *Rome*, they should all be Destroyed the next Year.

Mr. Samuel Cotman, of the *Middle-Temple*, *Barriſter*, informed, That about two Years since, one *Mr. Feviſton*, a *Popish Priest*, and called by the Name of *Father Garret*, did perswade him to turn *Papist*, and he should want neither Profit nor Preferment. *Mr. Cotman* objected, That he intended to practice the Law, which he could not do if he turned *Papist*, because he must take the *Oath of Supremacy* at his being called to the Bar : And if he were a *Papist*, he must not take it. *Mr. Feviſton* reply'd, *Why not take the Oath? It is an unlawful Oath, and void, ipso facto ;* And after some Pause, said further, *First take the Oath, and then I will Convert you.* He said further, *The King will not own himself to be Head of the Church.* And said further, *You of England that set up the Dutch to destroy our Religion, shall find that they shall be made use of to pull down Yours, and consequently their own at last.*

Man Stanly, an Officer to the Duke of *Ormond* in *Ireland*, informed, That coming out of *Ireland* with one *Oriell*, (who owned himself of the Order of the *Jesuits*, and commissioned from the Pope to be Lord Primate of *Ireland*, and Arch-Bishop of *Armaugh*) and falling into some Discourse with him, he told him that there had been a Difference between him and some other of the *Jesuits* in *Ireland*, and that Part of the Occasion was, That one *Father Welch*, and some other of the *Jesuits* there, did dispence with the *Papists* in *Ireland*, to take the Oath of

Allegiance

Allegiance and Supremacy, by virtue of a Standing Commission from the Pope which they had to do it, *During this King's Life*, and Oriell thought they ought not to do it by virtue of the *Standing Commission*; but should take a *New Commission* from the Pope *every Year* to do it. And likewise that he brought Eight Boys out of *Ireland*, whom he intended to carry for *Flanders*, to breed up in some of the Colledges there. And at his taking Shipping to go to *Flanders*, He shaked his Foot towards *England*, Terming it *Egypt*, and said, He would not return to *England*, till he came with 50000 Men at his Heels.

A *French Merchant*, being a Papist, Living in *St. Michael's-Lane, London*, writes in a Letter to his Friend, that a great Number of Men and Arms were ready here, if those he wrote to were ready there. He being, upon the Intercepting this Letter, searched, Forty Fire-Locks were found in his House, ready Loaden, which were carried to *Fishmongers Hall*, a Month or more before the Fire, and he committed to Prison; but since Released.

A poor Woman Retaining to one *Belfon's House*, a Papist, about *Darkin* in *Surrey*, was Solicited, that She and her Husband would turn *Roman Catholicks*; which, if they did voluntarily *NOW*, they would be accepted of; but if they staid a little longer, They would be forced, whether they would or no; and then they would not be esteemed. This was deposed before Sir *Adam Brown*, a Member of Parliament.

A Complaint being made against a *Sugar-Baker* at *Fox-Hall*, his House was searched by Lieutenant Colonel *Lumly*, who found there several Guns with such Locks, as no *Englishman* who was (at the Taking of them) could discharge; together with Brasses Blunder-Busses and Fire-Works, of a very furious and burning Nature. Tryal being made of a small Part of them, the Materials were discerned to be Sulphur, Aquavita, Gun-Powder, whatever else.

In a Letter to Sir *John Fredericke*, and Mr. *Nathaniel Heron*, from *Horsbam* in *Suffex*, the Eighth of September, 1666, Subscribed *Henry Chowne*. Wherein is mentioned, that the said *Henry Chowne* had Thoughts to come to *London* that Week, but that they were in Distraction there, concerning the Papists, fearing they would shew themselves
all,

all, that Day: And that he had been to search a Papist's House within six Miles of that Place. He with another Justice of Peace met with the Gentleman's Brother (who is a Priest) going to London, whom they searched, and found a Letter about him which he had received that Morning from his Sister, Twenty Miles off from him, Wherein is expressed, *That a great Business is in Hand, not to be committed to Paper, as the Times be.*

Your Committee, have thought fit to give no Opinion upon these Informations; but leave the Matter of Fact to your Judgments.

I am commanded to tell you, that your Committee have several other Things of this Nature under their Inquiry.

F I N I S.

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